The Arts and the Law

The soaring market in paintings and other works of art has served to underscore a variety of interesting and important questions of law and of economics. In recognition of this, in the Spring Quarter, 1966, the Law School sponsored a Conference on the Arts and the Law. The scope of the Conference was confined to painting, sculpture and the allied arts, and focused on the arts in the commercial marketplace.

The Conference opened with a paper on "The Economics of the Art Market", by Simon Rottenberg, Professor of Economics, Duke University. The second speaker was Everett Ellin, Public Affairs Officer of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, a former art dealer, and a member of the California and New York Bars, who spoke on "Art and Opulence: The Commerce of Culture in the Affluent Society." Harold Haydon, Associate Professor of Art at The University of Chicago, and art critic of the Chicago Sun-Times, and Alex L. Hillman, Class of 1924, art collector and former publisher of Hillman Periodicals, Inc., commented on the papers. James M. Ratcliffe, Assistant Dean of the Law School and Chairman of the Faculty Committee on the Conference, presided.

The second session, chaired by Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School, opened with a talk on "The Artist and the Law," by Joshua Binion Cahn, of Cahn and Mathias, New York. Alvin S. Lane, of Wien, Lane and Klein, New York, past chairman of the Committee on Art, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, spoke on "Problems of the Purchaser of Art Objects as Seen by a Lawyer." The concluding paper of the Conference, on "Taxation and the Arts," was presented by William A. McSwain, of Eckhart, McSwain, Hassell and Husum, Chicago, a Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago.
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Professor Morris' topic was "Impediments to Penal Reform." The Inaugural Lecture has been published in the Summer, 1966, issue of The University of Chicago Law Review.

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